8/18-48

QUARTERLY PAPER

OF THE

AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY.

"Our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance—so that ye were ensamples to all that believe. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad."—Paul.

No. V. Mission Rooms, No. 9 Spruce-street, New-York. August, 1840.

Our brethren throughout the United States are aware that since the decease of the beloved and lamented Luther Crawford, late Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, the Quarterly Paper of that society, which originated with him, has not appeared. It is unnecessary to offer any other reason for its discontinuance than the well known fact that during the whole period since the death of the estimable Secrrtary, until very near the last anniversary of the Society, his office was unoccupied, except by a temporary arrangement.

The discontinuance of that valuable paper has been regarded as an unfortunate circumstance. It was an important medium of communication between the Executive Committee and the churches, presenting correct information of the wants of our denomination, especially in the valley of the Mississippi; the proper means of supplying those wants, and the efforts of the Committee to employ them for that purpose. It furnished, also, a cheap mode of acknowledging the benefactions of our friends; and while it proved an important and valuable auxiliary of the Society in promoting the great interests for which they labored, it is believed its periodical appearance among the churches was everywhere greeted with a welcome reception.

The attempt to revive it at this time, therefore, can hardly be thought experimental, if, as it is believed, the Baptist denomination is still as much interested in Home Missions as it was eighteen months ago, or if the periodical perusal of documents showing facts connected with missionary operations in our own country is as desirable as it was then. These, it will be the constant care of the present Secretary to present from time to time, especially such as may be furnished by the Agents, Missionaries, and other correspondents of the Society: and in this undertaking, aided by the counsels and contributions of the Executive Committee, he hopes to render it still acceptable and useful.

ADDRESS OF THE SOCIETY.

Communications intended for the Society or Executive Committee, should be addressed to Rev. Benjamin M. Hill, Corresponding Secretary of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, New-York.

Donations and Subscriptions to R. W. Martin, Esq. Treasurer, No. 57 Wall-street.

CORRESPONDENCE OF MISSIONARIES.

MAINE.

Although the American Baptist Home Mission Society bestows its principal and almost exclusive attention upon the new States and territories of the west, it occasionally extends its aid to really deserving churches in other portions of the union. Since the anniversary, application has been made for assistance to a small amount, by the church at Limerick, Me., and the Committee has appointed Rev. Josiah Tilton, their pastor, a missionary for 12 months. It is believed that the small appropriation necessary to sustain this appointment will prove productive of much good.

Brother Tilton informs us, in a letter of 7th of July, that he had baptised 15 persons since May 1st, and that there were other candidates ready for the ordinance. There is a school and Bible class connected with the church, supplied with only a very small library. Besides attending to the ordinary duties of his pastoral office, brother T. visits and labors on a circuit of four or five miles—often extending his tours to adjoining towns.

MARYLAND.

The Calvert-street Church in Baltimore, which, in its infancy and weakness sought and obtained our aid, is no longer dependent upon us. We are now pleased to recognise in that body a willing and useful auxiliary. Brother George F. Adams, their pastor, in forwarding what he considers, probably, the last report of missionary labors he shall have occasion to make, dated March 17, 1840, says, "In my last report, as your missionary, I stated that the affairs of our little church were, at that time, in quite a comfortable and prosperous condition. Such has been the case to the present time, but with increasing interest. To give a detailed account of the work of grace with which God has recently blessed us, is more than I can now do. Suffice it to say that till last Lord's day week, I have been called to baptize every week since October 20th. From April last up to the present time we have received by baptism 110, and by letter 16.

"Connected with the church is a flourishing Sunday school of about 200 pupils; four Bible classes, consisting of nearly eighty members, and every benevolent object of the present day receives their attention.

"The church has finished and furnished their meeting-house at an expense of $2000, and it is always respectably filled when opened for public worship."

Our brother, in conclusion, says:—"I cannot but feel grateful for the benefit which has resulted from our relation to your society. A flourishing, and it is to be hoped, an useful church has been built up without detracting any thing from any other religious community, save that a few members have joined us by letter. This church we believe and pray may be the means, with others of kindred spirit, of sending forth the light of the gospel to many dark regions of our state. I shall ever recur with interest to the period of my connexion with your society, as one franght with deepest anxiety and of undeserved success, in the cause of our common Lord.

"If at any time I can render any service to your Executive Committee as a local agent, or otherwise, it will afford me pleasure to do so."

DEAR BROTHER HILL— *Pikesville, Md., July* 15, 1840.

Your favor of the 11th was received this day. I have just returned from Tanytown where we had an interesting meeting. I trust that the Lord is at work among them, and I believe their prospects are better than they have been for years. The field is truly white to harvest, but the laborers are few Within the last few months every church in the Maryland Union Association (to which I belong) has had revivals, and many have been added. I have several protracted meetings to attend immediately, but scarcely know where to begin first, so urgent are the people for them.

If consistent, I should feel grateful to your Board for a renewal of my commission for another year, as I have a wife and four children to support, and without your assistance it is likely some portion of the Lord's vineyard must be neglected, and I should have to labor with my hands for the remainder of my support, or go to some other place where I could obtain it; this I do not wish as Maryland is so destitute.

Yours in the bonds of the Gospel,

JOSEPH METTAM.

VIRGINIA.

Brother Benjamin Holden in a letter of June 18th, complains that his labors of the past quarter have not been marked with such precious results as a lover of souls and of Christ desires, but rejoices that his congregations are increasing; that there is strong desire manifested for his labors by many who not long since spent the Sabbath in hunting, and other unprofitable amusements on the Lord's day, and in dancing and frolicking at other times. He supplies four stations, two of which are fifty miles, one of them twenty-five and the other thirteen miles distant from his residence. He has travelled 996 miles, preached 47 sermons, and delivered many lectures.

MISSISSIPPI.

Brother B. Cook, jr., labored in the service of the Society in the State of Mississippi nearly six months, and returned from his field in time to be present at the anniversary, but not in season to make his report of labors. He represents the section of the state where he was located, (East Felicianna) and several other portions of it as destitute of gospel privileges, but offering fair prospects of settlement with respectable and influential churches to ministers of suitable qualifications.

The following extract of a letter from brother John Micou, jr., shows the encouraging circumstances under which he is prosecuting his labors.

DEAR BROTHER— *Louisville, Mi., June* 30, 1840.

Since writing you there has been a regular accession to the churches to which I preach. I baptized, in Louisville, two in May, and have had the pleasure since to baptize fifteen at Concord. I expect at my next appointment at this place some ten or twelve others will be received. Rejoice with me, my brother, that the Lord is prospering his cause here in some good degree. I have lately taken a tour of preaching in the county of Choctaw, and am to visit the same region each month. I received one who will be baptized on my next visit.

KENTUCKY.

Our esteemed brother F. A. Willard, who acts under appointment of the Society in Louisville, Kentucky, writes that the church with which he is laboring is steadfast, and moving forward towards a condition which he hopes will enable them to sustain themselves ere long without our aid. They are now endeavoring to complete their house of worship, for the erection of which they have shown a spirit of personal zeal and perseverance worthy of all praise. Their number of members is but thirty-nine, and but four or five of the number are in possession of property—none of them are wealthy, yet within nineteen months, the period of their organization, they had raised for the support of the gospel among themselves including the expense of building, $5000, and about $500 for education, missionary, and other benevolent purposes.

MISSOURI.

DEAR BROTHER— *Cooper County, June* 16, 1840.

I received your very welcome epistle yesterday, dated May 13, and feel grateful for the kindness shown me by your Society, for without your aid I fear I should be compelled to quit the field.

So far the good Lord has been pleased to bless my labors. Upwards of sixty have been brought to submit to Christ in the field of my operations, and I have had the unspeakable pleasure of baptizing forty eight rejoicing converts.

A heart-cheering prospect exists in Lexington, the county seat of Lafayette County. I have visited this place twice, thirty-eight have already been baptized into the fellowship of the Baptist Church in this place, and others are waiting for Baptism.

The Baptist cause is gaining ground rapidly here. Campbellism for a while seemed to take the field; but a body without the Spirit, if not dead, must soon die. So it has proved with them. The Lord will destroy them by the breath of his mouth.

I will write more particularly in my next,

Your unworthy brother,

A. P. WILLIAMS.

Rev. B. M. HILL. Cor. Sec. A. B. H. M. S.

ILLINOIS.

The following extracts of a letter from Bro. Joel Wheeler of McHenry, Illinois, to the Corresponding Secretary, will give some idea of the ministerial destitution of that region, and the efforts of brother Wheeler, to supply that destitution.

"I am obliged to supply a number of stations in McHenry and Lake Counties, and have no associate in that work. I AM ALONE! I have here under my care four churches, one of which was organized last May. This church consists of seventeen members, and is situated in a beautiful and rising village. Other churches would be soon organized within these counties, if pastors could be obtained for them.

"In Wisconsin Territory there are also three promising churches prominently situated, which depend entirely upon my assistance, except when casually supplied by some other. *Thus I have seven churches under my care*, and you will see how necessary it is that I should have a few assistants."

In a subsequent letter written from New-Hampshire, brother Wheeler informs us that the principal object of his visit there was to find some ministers who were able and willing to accompany him to the West, independent of the assistance of any Missionary Society; but he was almost in despair of accomplishing the object. He found some who were willing, but none of the number able to endure the expense of the undertaking. He had also determined to organize no more churches until he could find pastors to take charge of them. A wise determination for a man who already had the care of seven churches: but what will those "other sheep" in the wilderness do, if no pastors can be found to assist our brother?

TO UNEMPLOYED BAPTIST MINISTERS.

In several of the "Atlantic States" there are many good Baptist ministers without pastoral charge, and not a few who have no stated engagements in preaching, but are desirous of obtaining situations. Some of them find every door closed against their engaging statedly in the ministry in any place they have sought, and their daily prayer is, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"

Let such read the foregoing letter, and then decide if it does not furnish an answer to their prayer. While God is by his holy providence removing so many of his dear children into the wilderness, are his ministers afraid or unwilling to accompany them? Why are the doors of usefulness *among us* closed against so many men whose past usefulness is the theme of many churches, and whose talents qualify them for continued usefulness somewhere? Is it not that they should preach the gospel in the more destitute regions of the West? These are questions of no small importance, and address themselves to the class alluded to with a solemnity that demands such an answer as will satisfy conscience in view of a day when they will be called to give account of their stewardship.

TEXAS.

At the anniversary of the Society in New-York last April, the moral condition of Texas and the prospects of our denomination in that republic occupied a considerable share of attention. By a communication received only a few days previously, the hearts of the delegates were cheered with the unexpected intelligence that many Baptist churches had been organized in that country, the most of which were desirous of obtaining properly qualified pastors; that many of the inhabitants were Baptists in sentiment, and were ready to sustain any well directed effort for the establishment of gospel institutions in the country. This information elicited several animating addresses, and a feeling of warm interest on the part of the Society in the religious improvement of Texas.

Immediately after the meeting exertions were made by the Executive Committee to secure the services of brethren who were understood to be desirous of engaging in a mission to that republic, but though one appointment was made, and an application for another was favorably entertained, events in Divine providence transpired to disappoint expectation in both cases.

It is with much pleasure we now announce the appointment of three young brethren whose hearts appear deeply imbued with the proper spirit, and whose talents promise good for Texas. One of those brethren will, probably be ready to start for the country in due season next fall, the others will follow as soon as circumstances permit.

Letters from brother James Huckins, our Missionary Agent, and verbal information from brother D. R. Wright just returned from that country, leave no room to doubt that the door is now open for ministers of our denomination to enter and occupy the land. Here then, is a field for usefulness, that should be entered immediately by men of education, experience, good sense and piety; willing to endure a few privations, and panting for the honor of laying the foundations of a nation's moral character and prosperity.

APPOINTMENTS.

Since the anniversary of the Society, eight of our missionaries have been reappointed, the period of their previous engagement having expired; and nine new appointments have been made—viz. to Illinois 2; to Iowa Territory or Northern Illinois 2; to Michigan 1; to Pennsylvania 1; and to Texas 3.

It is expected that one of the brethren appointed to Texas, will be ready to engage in the duties of his appointment within a few weeks.

The appointment of brother John Peck, general Agent of the Society, was renewed immediately after the anniversary.

Brother Roswell Kimball has been appointed general Agent for the State of Illinois, and entered upon the duties of his agency on the 4th of July.

We have the happiness to announce that brother George W. Eaton, Professor at Hamilton Literary and Theological Seminary, purposes to visit the State of Ohio during the approaching vacation, and has kindly accepted an agency for our Society during that period. We feel assured of the kind and liberal attention of all our Ohio brethren whom he may visit.

It is very gratifying to be able to state that Bro. William Parkinson, being about to visit several states at the South and West, has accepted our commission as Missionary Agent during the period of his tour.

THE INDIANA CASE.

Much has been written in various Baptist papers respecting a statement in our last Annual Report, concerning a Baptist minister in Indiana who was appointed one of our missionaries. Among other things it is said, (not in very tender terms) that the circumstances related of the man shows him to be unfit for appointment, and the judgment and prudence of the Executive Committee, are not very courteously impeached in the exercise of the appointing power.

It was our design to remain silent, at present, upon this subject, in the expectation that an ample explanation would be forth coming from the *better source*—but we feel called upon by an article in the Baptist Advocate of August 1st, to explain ourselves.

As the case already alluded to, is the only one given in illustration of the *indiscretion* of the Executive Committee, we shall confine ourselves to that case.

Many brethren who were present at the Anniversary in New-York, and heard the verbal statements of the Corresponding Secretary, declare they were almost verbatim as the case is stated in the Annual Report. Therefore, those who have read the articles alluded to in the papers, will perceive at once that while the originator of them, may have intended to give a faithful report of what was said, he must have misunderstood the Secretary, or forgot his remarks before committing them to paper; and has thus, made out quite another case; or reported something that was *not* said at the Anniversary.

As to the brother who was appointed our missionary, he was well recommended by brethren of respectable standing, some of whom, and the brother appointed, were known by some of the Committee; he was also recommended by the missionary who stated the case to us and forwarded the application—this missionary is well known to the Executive Committee and general Agent, as an intelligent, discerning and prudent man.

But in order to assist our brethren in forming an opinion in the case, we will give the extract of the missionary's letter, and the certificate of the man's character and circumstances. (Names cannot be given unless it shall be rendered necessary.)

"It was there I became acquainted with brother ———— who is here recommended to your attention. His situation is a peculiar one, and distressing as it now is, he has preached throughout that section of the country for a number of years, and all assent to the statements in the certificate. He has quite a family to support, and by attending to the calls for preaching from different parts, has reduced himself to poverty. I was credibly informed by one brother, that he went with some ham and flour to his house one day, as an offering from a church he supplied, and he had not enough for a single meal. He told me very modestly his condition, and I could scarcely keep from weeping when he told me his children often cried for bread, and he had not wherewith to supply them. His whole soul is enlisted in preaching the gospel, but he is compelled to desist and provide for his family. He is some eighty or ninety dollars in debt, and it must be liquidated, and none but his own hands can or will do it. He says the fire is in his very bones, and he could not leave the preaching of the gospel did not absolute necessity compel him.

"The churches in that section are very feeble and unable to do much for a preacher, and but a few of those who are able have a heart. There are some however, who told me, did their circumstances permit, they would free brother ——— from his embarrassments.

"The certificate will, I have no doubt, assure you of his good standing and want. It is signed by the very best of men and pillars in the churches. I asked brother ——— how much he would need to release him from his embarrassments. He told me he thought about eighty dollars, and if once freed, he has children almost large enough to provide for the family while he could preach."

Certificate dated ——— ———

"This Certifies, that Elder ——— pastor of ——— church, ——— County, Indiana, has been for a number of years an able minister of the New Testament, and useful to the church and world—but his temporal circumstances are such that he is compelled to leave the preached word, except he is relieved of his embarrassments from some source—as such we heartily recommend him to the charity of the American Baptist Home Mission Society."

Signed by seven brethren residing in three different towns.

It will be seen by the above that the brother appointed was *not our missionary* when suffering such pinching necessity. He is now acting under our appointment, on a salary that allows him the happiness of preaching the gospel to the poor. With how much good reason the Executive Committee appointed him, we leave others to judge.

Painful as has been the task of giving facts in a case of such great delicacy to more persons than one, the necessity for them under existing circumstances is obvious.

Having explained the whole case, may we not now be justified in suggesting to some of our benevolent friends that, this case would furnish a fine subject for an annual appropriation. One hundred dollars annually would afford our brother great relief, and entitle the donor to a Directorship for Life, for each hundred dollars.

WESTERN MEN'S OPINIONS.

We feel no great pleasure in sounding our own trumpet, nor even that of another whose notes are in our own praise, but there happens to be some reason just now, why Baptist churches should know what is said of us by *more than one* at the West. The following items will assist our brethren to some information on the subject.

The General Convention of Western Baptists held their sixth meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, commencing on the 3d June.

Various important subjects were discussed and acted upon with great zeal and harmony, the results of which cannot be otherwise than beneficial to the moral interests of the western states.

Among other subjects, that of Home Missions received particular attention. The action of the body upon that subject was as follows, viz:

Resolved, That Home Missions, while they are sustained by the same Christian principle with other departments of benevolent effort, are especially and eminently patriotic.

Resolved, That the grand object of Home Missions, the temporary assistance of those who are disposed to help themselves, evinces the duty of the East and the West to co-operate in this enterprise.

Resolved, That while it is the obvious duty of our brethren in the Valley to do all in their power to sustain the institutions of religion among them, it is equally obvious that for years to come they must look to their eastern brethren for continued assistance.

Resolved, That the success which has hitherto attended Home Mission efforts, should not only excite gratitude to God, but also encourage sanguine hopes of their future benefit to the general cause of Christianity in the West.

In these resolutions our readers will be able to arrive at a *correct* knowledge of Western views of our Home Mission operations: views expressed on western ground, by one of the most numerous convocations of Baptists, ever assembled in that region.

The editor of the "Cross and Journal" in an able article in that paper of July 17th, replying to some remarks which previously appeared in another western paper, presents a comparative exhibition of the efficiency of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, with all the similar bodies of our denomination at the West, of which we have no reason to feel ashamed. He concludes his remarks with the following forcible language. "We have now reached a critical point. We are about doubling the

Cape. If our Eastern brethren withdraw from us, the cause will assuredly retrograde. In the name of hundreds of churches in the West, we thank them kindly for what they have done, and ask a continuance of their kindness."

Elder R. T. Daniel, who, for many years, has resided at the West, travelled extensively in different states, and is as well qualified by observation and sound judgment as any other man to form a correct opinion of our Home Mission operations, expresses himself on what he deems his dying bed, thus:—the American Baptist Home Mission Society "have done more good in spreading the gospel with the same amount of funds in the North, (meaning north of the Ohio river) and part of the West, than any Domestic Missionary Society has done in our union of states, and bears a weight of character that no Association, Convention, or Missionary Society has or can bear."

APPLICATIONS FOR AID.

Churches applying for aid, should accompany their applications with statements of the name of the church; the Post office address of one of the Committee applying; the number of members, and average number of attendants on public worship; the total amount of salary necessary for the support of the minister they have in view; the portion of that salary which they will engage to raise for the given time; the least amount that will suffice from the Society for the same period; and any peculiar circumstances in their case to illustrate the necessity of their application.

These statements should be confirmed by the certificate of one or more ministers known by some of the Executive Committee: or, in case the church is located within the bounds of an Association, State Convention, or Society auxiliary to this, it should procure their recommendation.

If the application is in behalf of any particular minister, then state his name, age, Post office address, the credentials he bears, the number of his family, (if he have one) and accompany it with certificates or recommendations as above.

As the appropriations of the Society are made, in general, for twelve months; if a renewal is needed by either churches or ministers, a new application should be seasonably made, accompanied by information of the results of the previous years' aid.

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTIONS AND SOCIETIES.

The Secretaries of State Conventions and Societies, and Clerks of Associations, especially of our Auxiliaries, are respectfully requested to transmit to the Corresponding Secretary, copies of their Minutes, *as soon as possible*, after the anniversaries of their respective bodies.

MEMBERSHIP.

An Annual Member, by an Annual Contribution.

A Member for Life, by the payment of $30 or more.

A Director for Life, by the payment of $100 or more, or any sum, which, in addition to a previous payment, makes one hundred dollars.

FORM OF A BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY.

I give unto the Treasurer, for the time being, of the American Baptist Home Mission Society, formed in the city of New-York, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, the sum of ———————— dollars, for the purposes of said Society, and for which the receipt of such Treasurer shall be a sufficient discharge.

NEW LIFE DIRECTORS AND MEMBERS.

Joseph J. Cooke, Life Director, New-York.

Sally C. Biscoe, Life Member, Lancaster County, Virginia.

Mrs. James M. Stickney, Life Member, Stamford, Connecticut, by the Church and Congregation at that place.

Rev. J. G. Wightman, Life Member, Groton, Con., by Stonington Union Association.

R. C. McCormick, do New-York, for services rendered.

Rev. S. Ripley, do Foxboro, Mass., by Old Colony Miss. Society.

TO CONTRIBUTORS TO THE AMERICAN BAPTIST HOME MISSION SOCIETY.

A few typographical errors occurred in the Treasurer's detailed account in the Annual Report, to which we invite attention. They are all in the last column, page 47, viz. The sum $594 54, is the total amount of receipts in Virginia. The $15 65, is the amount contributed by the Raleigh church; and the $30, is the donation of Lydia Sherwood, Bridgeport, Conn. The last donation was to constitute Rev. Matthew Batchellor, of Stratfield, Conn., a member for Life.